

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

**Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall**

**7:00 pm**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption**

- In attendance: Clark Reed, Lea Rosenbohm, Herb Winkler, Devinie Rukshani Lye (via phone) and staff liaison Erica Shingara.
- The meeting convened at 7:05 by Chair Reed and the December meeting minutes were adopted.

#### **2. Environment Commission Report**

- The Environment Commission would like to invite City Council members to their meeting to discuss priorities.
- There was a follow-up discussion to the October retreat. The group reviewed goals and priorities for the next 12-18 months. The Environment Commission settled on the following goals for 2012 (highlighted items indicate most relevant to SDEC):
  - **Green Team for Sustainable Maryland Certified**
  - **High Performance tax credit implementation**
  - Increase the recycling rate
  - **Green building code updates**
  - **Environment element of the City's master plan**
  - Better engage City Council
  - Work with schools on outreach
  - Earth day event promotion
  - Multi-City board
  - Promote Tree rebates
  - Hometown Holidays
  - Citizen survey
  - Stream cleanups
- While some SDEC energy initiatives did not make it to the priority list for the entire Environmental Commission, they are important to the SDEC members. The SDEC voted to bring the commercial kilowatt crackdown, green business certification, and energy disclosure projects back to the Commission as SDEC priorities.
- This would allow the City to have a wide breadth of energy initiatives (Green Business Certification, Kilowatt Crackdown, Green Power Community Challenge, High Performance Building Tax Credit). However, it would be important for the SDEC to distinguish each program from one another to minimize confusion.

### **3. Environmental Management Division Report**

- The High Performance Building Tax Credit is set to go before the Mayor and Council on the 23rd. If the Mayor and Council decide to introduce, it will have a public comment period and a public hearing may be held on March 5, 2012.
- A list of Rockville's Green Events for spring was distributed.
- Pepco's home energy efficiency incentives have increased to 50% of the cost of improvements recommended by an energy audit (up to \$2000).

### **4. Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC)**

- Survey update- The citizen survey on sustainability is now online (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DNVHDZW>). The survey received 191 responses to date.
- Reviewed action items:
  - Clark Reed submitted information for "Let's Move", reported that the City did not meet the criteria for the "Living Well," and will continue to work with Twinbrook for "MD Green Schools." Other green schools may include College Garden and Christ Episcopal.
  - Lea Rosenbohm – The Green Business Certification program may be an action to submit in the year 2 or 3 SMC application. On April 10<sup>th</sup> the County, Chamber and the City will host a green business training program.
  - Energy, local economy and innovation items will be included in year 2 or 3 application and discussed at a future meeting.

### **5. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

- None

### **6. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, February 21, 2012** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.